

Bicycling was one of their great recreations, in those days
 They all bicycled ardently in the country, Mrs Webb
 used also to ride in Battersea Park, in company with Charles
 Trevelyan and other active young politicians
 It was
 apropos of this bicycling that, according to one of their
 intimates, Sidney was seen for the first time to be thor-
 oughly flustered She had a slight accident, when thus
 riding, and was brought home in a cab, her blouse be-
 spattered with blood Then, for a moment, if only for
 a moment, he "went off the deep end " Shaw tells another
 story, to prove that, unlike most of the ladies of his
 acquaintance, Beatrice was never in love with him They
 were all three staying somewhere in the country, and
 in a shed attached to the house, he discovered an authentic
 velocipede, such as he had never ridden He brought
 it forth in triumph, Beatrice looking on, and tried to make
 it go, without success At last, he was driven to taking
 advantage of the fact that the lawn was arranged in a
 series of sharply sloping terraces on the down grade,
 the thing did go, only to collapse again on the flat, throwing
 him violently and suddenly to the ground, and bringing
 him, so he says, to within an ace of departure from this
 mortal scene, at each essay She, however, instead of
 sympathising or showing any concern, laughed with
 delighted amusement The sounds brought Sidney to
 the window, he looked out, enquired what was going

on, and came running forth, intent on trying
what his
skill could effect Whereupon Beatrice cried with
insistent
passion, "No, no, Sidney, you mustn't" From
which
moment, G B S realised the bitter truth
Or so he
says Nevertheless, with native nobility, he
continued
at the opening of each bicycling season to get
out Sidney's
bicycle, as well as his own, and see that it was
in order—
an operation which his friend was incapable of
performing
for himself Skill with his hands is no part of
Mr Webb's